

Red wolves need your help! Here are some tips from the pack!



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The red wolf once roamed the forested eastern United States in great numbers. Today, however, the red wolf exists in the wild only in northeastern North Carolina and on island propagation sites. Over 200 red wolves live in captive management facilities across the nation. Once a symbol of wild beauty, this magnificent predator has suffered the fate of wolves nearly everywhere in the world. Three hundred years of hunting and habitat destruction have diminished their numbers sharply. These two factors, plus interbreeding with coyotes, have brought the red wolf to the edge of extinction. This animal needs the help, understanding, and support of humans if it is to survive and to thrive in the wild.

Red wolves are shy and reclusive, hunting mostly at night, avoiding contact with humans. According to the legend of the Yuchi Indians, neighbors of the Cherokee, the wolf was one of the four lost sons of the wind, elusive and unseen, never where people imagined it to be. To the Creek Indians, the silence of the wolf was a virtue. Silence ensures the success of the hunter; thus the Creek emulated the stealth of the wolf by refusing even to utter its name.

But red wolves are scarce now, existing on a thin margin of survival. Yet, there is hope. The red wolf needs you, and you can help. No matter who you are or where you live, you can join with others to ensure that this remarkable predator has a home in the wild.

What You Can Do! Some Tips!

- Learn all you can about red wolves. As an educated citizen, you can teach others. The more you know, the more effective you will be. Many people still believe that wolves are dangerous to people and that they represent a major economic threat to livestock owners. Education is the key to changing attitudes.
- Get involved! Join the Red Wolf Coalition (www.redwolves.com) and support its red wolf conservation and recovery efforts. You can do many things on your own to help, but a group of people working together has more power to get things done.
- Visit a place where red wolves live. It might be a zoo, an island, or a wildlife refuge in northeastern North Carolina! Remember, if it weren't for zoos, the red wolf would be extinct! Be sure to tell the staff and directors how important they are for the red wolf! Ask how you can get involved.
- Adopt a local natural area. Volunteer to maintain and improve it.
- Inform elected officials, lawmakers, and civic and business organizations of your concerns about wildlife protection.
- Support land conservation initiatives and programs.